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INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 9617
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 8824
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SUBJECT: U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

New Phase

Editorial in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (08/29) says: "The U.S. presidential campaign will concentrate on states without a definite party choice, many of them affected by the economic crisis. ... The feat of the democratic candidate to the White House was marked by performances in which the Senator exercised his impressive charisma. .. The U.S. campaign will now enter a new routine. In addition to mutual attacks...a competition of proposals directed to a mass of salaried voters in great part white and Latin will prevail. Obama's platform in this question is the traditional democratic protectionism. He defends new incentives and rules to diminish foreign competition and create more jobs in the U.S. McCain is clearly liberal. He promises, for example, to revoke the surtax on ethanol imports and reject the policy of subsidizing inefficient ethanol made from corn - which would be advantageous from the Brazilian agribusiness point of view."